Finding Aid for the Walnut Grove Japanese Methodist Church Records, 1930-1956

Processed by Eiichiro Azuma; machine-readable finding aid created by Genie Guerard
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Note
Area, Interdisciplinary, and Ethnic Studies--Asian American Studies
History--California History--Sacramento Area
HistoryGeographical (By Place)--California--Sacramento Area
Religion
Finding Aid for the Walnut Grove Japanese Methodist Church Records, 1930-1956

Collection number: 298

UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections
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Online finding aid edited by:
Amy Shung-Gee Wong, November 2000

Funding:
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Walnut Grove Japanese Methodist Church Records,
Date (inclusive): 1930-1956
Collection number: 298
Creator: Walnut Grove Japanese Methodist Church
Extent: 11 boxes (5.5 linear ft.)
Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library. Department of Special Collections.
Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

Abstract: The Walnut Grove Japanese Methodist Church was the only Japanese Christian institution in the Sacramento Delta region. Established in 1915, the church played a key role in the religious life of the Japanese immigrant community. For the American-born Nisei generation, it conducted a Sunday school from its inception, and during the 1930s it organized the Epworth League and Friendship Club. During the wartime internment years, it was closed, but reopened in 1945 as former residents of Walnut Grove began to return to the Delta region. In October 1991 the church was closed permanently because of declining membership. The collection consists of various minutes, donation records, account books, weekly bulletins, and other miscellaneous documents, most of which postdate 1933. Includes many postwar newsletters issued by other Japanese American Christian churches, and the Kingdom of God Weekly (Kami no Kuni Shimbun), a Christian weekly newspaper published in Japan.

Physical location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

Language: English.

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Additional Physical Form Available
A copy of the original version of this online finding aid is available at the UCLA Department of Special Collections for in-house consultation and may be obtained for a fee. Please contact:

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Provenance/Source of Acquisition
Gift of Mark Nakagawa, 1992.

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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Walnut Grove Japanese Methodist Church Records (Collection 298). Department of Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles.

UCLA Catalog Record ID
UCLA Catalog Record ID: 4233951

History
The Walnut Grove Japanese Methodist Church was the only Japanese Christian institution in the Sacramento Delta region; established in 1915, the church played a key role in the religious life of the Japanese immigrant community; for the American-born Nisei generation, it conducted a Sunday school from its inception, and during the 1930s it organized the Epworth League and Friendship Club; in 1915, and again in 1933, the church was destroyed by fire; during the wartime internment years, it was closed, but reopened in 1945 as former residents of Walnut Grove began to return to the Delta region; in October 1991 the church was closed permanently because of declining membership.

Scope and Content
Collection consists of various minutes, donation records, account books, weekly bulletins, and other miscellaneous documents, most of which postdate the 1933 fire. Includes many postwar newsletters issued by other Japanese American Christian churches, and the Kingdom of God Weekly (Kami no Kuni Shimbun), a Christian weekly newspaper published in Japan.

Organization and Arrangement
Arranged in the following series:
1. Minutes and financial records (Boxes 1-5).
2. Miscellaneous records, including correspondence from other Japanese Christian churches (Box 5).
5. Kingdom of God Weekly (Kami no Kuni Shimbun) (Boxes 10-11).

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library’s online public access catalog.
Walnut Grove Japanese Methodist Church--Archives.
Protestant churches--California, Northern--Archival resources.
Japanese Americans--California, Northern--Archival resources.
**Related Material**

**Title:** Japanese American Research Project Collection of Material about Japanese in the United States.

**Identifier/Call Number:** (Collection 2010).
Available at the Department of Special Collections, UCLA.

**Title:** Japanese American Research Project- Fading Footsteps of the Issei.

**Identifier/Call Number:** (Collection 2010).
Available at the Department of Special Collections, UCLA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box [1-5]</th>
<th>Walnut Grove Japanese Methodist Church Records</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 1</td>
<td>Shiki-kai [Board of Trustees] minutes, December 1934-June 1940.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 2</td>
<td>Shiki-kai [Board of Trustees] minutes, December 1940-August 1941.</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 3</td>
<td>Shinwa-kai [church mutual financing association record, September 1941-May 1942.</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 4</td>
<td>Fujin-kai [women's club] minutes, January 1939-March 1942.</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 5</td>
<td>Various church records, July 1933-October 1934.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 1</td>
<td>Friendship Club minutes, January 1932-April 1942.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 2</td>
<td>Friendship Club account books, January 1932-April 1940 and January 1941-May 1942.</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 3</td>
<td>Epworth League minutes, January 1934-October 1937.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 1</td>
<td>Sunday school teachers' meeting minutes, August 1940-February 1942.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 2</td>
<td>Sunday school students' registers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 3</td>
<td>Sunday school account book, January 1929-September 1937.</td>
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<td>Box 3, Folder 4</td>
<td>Sunday school account book, October 1937-May 1942.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 1</td>
<td>Church financial records, January 1920-September 1930 and November 1930-January 1931.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 2</td>
<td>Church financial record, October 1930-December 1932.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 3</td>
<td>Church financial record, November 1934-January 1941.</td>
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<td>Box 4, Folder 4</td>
<td>Church financial record, September 1944-November 1945.</td>
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<td>Box 4, Folder 5</td>
<td>Church rebuilding committee minutes, April 1934-September 1935.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 6</td>
<td>New church building donation records.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 1</td>
<td>Christmas donation records, 1933-1934 &amp; 1937-1939.</td>
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<td>Box 5, Folder 2</td>
<td>Easter offering record, 1935-1941.</td>
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<td>Box 5, Folder 3</td>
<td>Record of baptism.</td>
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<td>Box 5, Folder 4</td>
<td>Record pertaining to the Reverend William Acton Memorial, 1929-1932.</td>
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<td>Box 5, Folder 5</td>
<td>Records of funeral for Reverend Suizu Nobumasa, August 1939.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 6</td>
<td>Record of missionary trip, November 1941-February 1942.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 7</td>
<td>Alameda Japanese Methodist Church record, October 1931-February 1932.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 8</td>
<td>Miscellaneous correspondence from other Japanese Christian churches.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 6, Folder 1</td>
<td>October 24, 1930-September 20, 1931.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Finding Aid for the Walnut Grove Japanese Methodist Church Records, 1930-1956

Box 6, Folder 2  | September 20, 1931-September 13, 1932.
Box 6, Folder 3  | September 20, 1932-September 05, 1933.
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Box 6, Folder 6  | 1936.
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Box 7, Folder 2  | 1938.
Box 7, Folder 3  | 1939.
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Box 7, Folder 5  | July 19, 1940-May 04, 1942.
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Box 8, Folder 1  | Walnut Grove Japanese Methodist Church.
Box 8, Folder 2  | Sacramento Japanese Methodist Church.
Box 8, Folder 3  | Florin Japanese Methodist Church.
Box 8, Folder 4  | Loomis Japanese Methodist Church.
Box 8, Folder 5  | Pine Methodist Church (San Francisco).
Box 8, Folder 6  | West Tenth Methodist Church (Oakland).
Box 8, Folder 7  | Buena Vista Methodist Church (Alameda).
Box 8, Folder 8  | Page Mill Methodist Church (Palo Alto).
Box 8, Folder 9  | Grace Methodist Church (Livingston).
Box 8, Folder 10 | Fresno Japanese Methodist Church.
Box 8, Folder 11 | Nisei Methodist Church (Oxnard).
Box 8, Folder 12 | Centenary Methodist Church (Los Angeles).
Box 8, Folder 13 | West Los Angeles Community Methodist Church.
Box 9, Folder 1  | Seattle Japanese Methodist Church [or Blaine Memorial Methodist Church].
Box 9, Folder 2  | Grant Street Methodist Church (Spokane, Washington).
Box 9, Folder 3  | Ontario Methodist Church (Ontario, Oregon).
Box 9, Folder 4  | California Street Methodist Church (Denver, Colorado).
Box 9, Folder 5  | Chicago Japanese Methodist Church.
Box 9, Folder 6  | United Church of Christ, Japanese American (New York).
Box 9, Folder 7  | Miscellaneous newsletters.
Box [10-11]  

The Kingdom of God Weekly [Kami no Kuni Shimbun], 1933-1940 (A Christian Weekly Newspaper published in Japan)

Box 10, Folder 1  | 1933.
Box 10, Folder 2  | 1934.
Box 10, Folder 3  | 1935.
Box 10, Folder 4  | 1936.
Box 11, Folder 1  | 1937.
Box 11, Folder 2  | 1938.
Box 11, Folder 3  | 1939.
Box 11, Folder 4  | 1940.